

2-17-04



Filed Via Express Mail

Rec. No.: EV 332278275US

On : February 12, 2004

By

Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. KAM 20.684 (100799-00085)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Ryoichi OTAKI  
Serial No.: 10/688,850  
Filed: October 16, 2003  
Title: STARTING APPARATUS...  
Examiner:  
Art Unit: 3748  
Con. No.: 9450

February 12, 2004

Director of the U.S. Patent and  
Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and a copy of the document listed thereon. This document contains information in which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

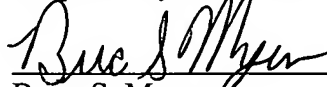
Also attached is a copy of a Translation of International Preliminary Examination Report dated February 20, 2003. Such report cited seven documents. Such documents were cited in an IDS previously submitted on February 6, 2004.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

**Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.**

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No.: KAM 20.684(100799-00085)

Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1449/PTO	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : 10/688,850
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <u>Sheet 1 of 1</u>		Filing Date : October 16, 2003
		First Named Inventor: R. OTAKI
		Group Art Unit : 3748
		Examiner Name :
		Attorney Docket No. : KAM 20.684

Patent & Trademark Office

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup>	Name of Cite
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		INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2003	
Examiner Signature	Date Considered		




**Future Documents**  
 (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title  
 (book magazine journal se